

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in delivering medication in a controlled ratio to separate locations from a single source of medication, comprising:

a valve housing defining an inlet for receiving the medication from the single source of medication and defining first and second outlets of substantially equal flow capacity for delivering the medication from said inlet to the separate locations in substantially equal amounts, said valve housing having a longitudinal axis and said outlets being spaced from and parallel to said longitudinal axis;

a cap having an open end coupled to said valve housing;

a flexible diaphragm disposed between said cap and said valve housing to define a pressure chamber in fluid communication with said inlet and said outlets, said flexible diaphragm movable between a closed position to seal said pressure chamber from said first and second outlets and an open position to open said pressure chamber to said first and second outlets; and

a biasing mechanism operable between said cap and said flexible diaphragm for biasing said flexible diaphragm towards said closed position, said biasing mechanism being disposed about said longitudinal axis.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 24 wherein said biasing mechanism includes a piston disposed in said cap for providing axial alignment and a spring disposed between said cap and said piston.

26. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 25 wherein said flexible diaphragm includes a head portion and said piston has a first end coupled to said head portion for moving with said head portion as said flexible diaphragm moves between said closed and open positions.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 25 wherein said piston includes a bottom and a peripheral wall extending from said bottom to define a spring chamber, said spring being disposed in said spring chamber.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 27 wherein said spring has a first end disposed in said spring chamber and a second end engaging said cap, said spring having an outside dimension that decreases from said first end to said second end for minimizing frictional contact between said spring and said peripheral wall or between coils of said spring and said peripheral wall.

29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 28 wherein said spring has a generally frustoconical shape.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 27 wherein said piston includes a plurality of spring seats disposed on said peripheral wall inside said spring chamber, said spring seats being circumferentially spaced along said peripheral wall for engaging said spring.

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 30 wherein said cap has a closed end, opposite said open end, and a spring positioning member disposed on said closed end and extending inwardly toward said open end, said spring being centered on said spring positioning member.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 24 including a first bushing disposed in said first outlet and a second bushing disposed in said second outlet.

33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 32 including a first flow restricting component disposed within said first bushing and a second flow restricting component disposed within said second bushing.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in delivering medication in a controlled ratio to separate locations from a single source of medication, comprising:

a valve housing defining an inlet for receiving the medication from the single source of medication and defining first and second outlets of substantially equal flow capacity for delivering the medication ~~from said inlet~~ to the separate locations in substantially equal amounts, said valve housing having a longitudinal axis and said outlets being spaced from and parallel to said longitudinal axis;

a cap having an open end coupled to said valve housing;

a flexible diaphragm disposed between said cap and said valve housing to define a pressure chamber in fluid communication with said inlet and said outlets, said flexible diaphragm movable between a closed position to seal said pressure chamber from said ~~first and second~~ outlets and an open position to open said pressure chamber to said ~~first and second~~ outlets; and

a control block disposed between said flexible diaphragm and said cap, said control block having a control surface disposed about said longitudinal axis for receiving said flexible diaphragm as said flexible diaphragm moves from said closed position to said open position to provide controlled movement of said flexible diaphragm from said closed position to said open position.

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 34 wherein said control block has a first end facing said flexible diaphragm and a second end, opposite said first end, facing said cap, said control surface defining a bore of said control block that tapers from said first end toward said second end.

36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 35 wherein said flexible diaphragm has a seat portion fixed relative to said valve housing, a head portion movable in said tapered bore between said closed and open positions, and a connecting portion flexibly connecting said seat portion and said head portion, said connecting portion contacting said control surface in said tapered bore as said flexible diaphragm moves from said closed position to said open position.

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 34 including a biasing mechanism disposed between said cap and said flexible diaphragm for biasing said flexible diaphragm towards said closed position.

38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 37 wherein said biasing mechanism includes a piston disposed in said cap for providing axial alignment and a spring disposed between said cap and said piston.

39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 38 wherein said flexible diaphragm includes a head portion and said piston has a first end coupled to said head portion for moving with said head portion as said flexible diaphragm moves between said closed and open positions.

40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 38 wherein said piston includes a bottom and a peripheral wall extending from said bottom to define a spring chamber, said spring being disposed in said spring chamber.

41. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 40 wherein said spring has a first end disposed in said spring chamber and a second end engaging said cap, said spring having an outside dimension that decreases from said first end to said second end for minimizing frictional contact between said spring and said peripheral wall or between coils of said spring and said peripheral wall.

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 41 wherein said spring has a generally frustoconical shape.

43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 40 wherein said piston includes a plurality of spring seats disposed on said peripheral wall inside said spring chamber, said spring seats being circumferentially spaced along said peripheral wall for

engaging said spring.

44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 43 wherein said cap has a closed end, opposite said open end, and a spring positioning member disposed on said closed end and extending inwardly toward said open end, said spring being centered on said spring positioning member.

45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 34 including a first bushing disposed in said first outlet and a second bushing disposed in said second outlet.

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 45 including a first flow restricting component disposed within said first bushing and a second flow restricting component disposed within said second bushing.